3:Stern E-4,5 (1949-1957) 1965 NR 10 Klamath NR 10

[Klamath Reservation]

money from the tribal fund set aside for the purpose. Interlocking memberships of the Executive Committee, the Enrollment Committee, and the Loan Board made those bodies the apex of tribal power. If the first-named was the central body, and important particularly in relations with agencies beyond the Tribe, the other two were no less essential in the administration of patronage.

The Tribal Loan Board had been established to preside over a fund set aside from the Yamsay Judgment of 1938, by which the issue of the Military Road had finally been settled. The fund had been designed to provide capital advances for tribal members, many of whom found bankers reluctant to lend to them. Although loans were supposed to be applied only to improvements, it became common practice to spend them merely as an anticipation of the next per capita. When the Bureau called a halt to its operations in 1955, the Board had out on loan approximately a half-million dollars, or the equivalent of almost $250 per member, and a collector had to be engaged to recover a sizeable portion of it.[14]

The Enrollment Committee was the third seat of power. Admission of one's children to tribal membership was eagerly sought, and not alone for reasons of sentiment. Once he was a tribal member, a child was vested with a pro-rata share of the undivided tribal estate, amounting at the time of termination to some $43,500. In addition he qualified to receive the per capita dividends that, subject to Agency restriction, were commonly drawn upon to defray current family living expenses.

Despite—and sometimes because of—these tactical measures, by which partisan leaders strove to bind them, many tribal members were driven into abstention by the bitter contentions that marked the final generation of tribal life. Although hundreds flocked to the luncheon set out at tribal expense in the Council Hall for those attending the General Council, morning meetings failed so frequently to draw a quorum that they were discontinued; and even afternoon sessions sometimes could not muster one hundred adults from among the thronging diners to transact tribal business. When they did come, they were often in holiday mood, frequently interrupting speakers, and exhibiting a keen appreciation for lengthy, eloquent, and often irrelevant harangues